



# CALPEEK

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FIRST IN A SERIES OF REPORTS

## **PRO SPORTS PUT PRESSURE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO BUILD FACILITIES WITH TAX DOLLARS.**

Editor's note: For the next few weeks **Calpeek** will focus on the relationship between pro sports franchises and local government --- and why local governments are going all out to hold onto "their teams" or entice teams from other cities to relocate. At the center of all this activity is the promise of playing in a new or renovated sports facility - paid for with public funds. There's politics, lots of money & backstabbing -- the elements which make for a great story. It's long, so this is just Part I --- *The Calif. Overview...*

...Make no mistake: professional sports in Calif. is big business. How many pro franchises are there? **Pro baseball**: 5 teams (Dodgers, Giants & Padres in the NL and the Angels & Oakland As in the AL). **NFL**: 3 teams (S.F. 49ers, Oakland Raiders & San Diego Chargers). **NBA**: 4 teams (Lakers & Clippers in L.A., Sacto Kings and Golden State). And **NHL**: 3 teams (Kings, Mighty Ducks & San Jose Sharks). And also remember this: some of the owners and corporations who own these teams are BIG political players...

...If there's a word which best describes the status of Calif. pro sports right now, that word is instability. Let's look at the situation: **1)** a political brouhaha is taking place in San Diego over the \$78 million expansion of Jack Murphy Stadium for the Chargers, with a possible referendum in works (sources say the NFL is very nervous); **2)** a major political battle may be shaping up in the City of L.A. over plans to approve a deal to build a new downtown sports arena (with some public funding) to get the *Kings* and *Lakers* away from Inglewood; **3)** there are 3 tax measures on the April 1st ballot in the City of Inglewood. If approved, the funds would be used to keep the *Kings* and *Lakers* at a new sports facility in this city...

... **4)** According to the Oakland Tribune, Alameda County Supes and the Oakland City Council are trying to cope with a \$50 million cost overrun for remodeling the Oakland-Alameda County Stadium - home of the Raiders (Al Davis is very smart); **5)** preliminary work is underway on a new baseball park for the S.F. Giants in the China Basin area. Construction is privately-funded, but the land is publicly-owned and will be leased to Giants (voters overwhelmingly approved Measure B in March of '96); and **6)** L.A. Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley has put a *For Sale* sign on his team and State Sen. Tom Hayden says it's all Mayor Richard Riordan's fault...

...FYI: In addition to current talks about rebuilding the L.A. Coliseum (to attract a new NFL team), **Calpeek** sources confirm that the S.F. 49ers want to find a new home after the Giants leave 3-Com Park (at Candlestick Point). Sources say there's either polling in the field now (or will be shortly) to test voter attitudes about building a new football stadium using tax dollars. More next week. Stay tuned...

## **ANOTHER LOOK AT GOV. WILSON'S \$66.6 BILLION BUDGET AND HIS PLANS FOR WELFARE IN CALIF.**

Editor's note: Now that Gov. Pete Wilson(R) has unveiled his new \$66.6 billion 1997-98 budget, the political maneuvering begins, especially as it relates to welfare reform - CA's #1 public policy issue. Here's our update & analysis...

...The overall budget is up by 4%, while General Fund expenditures are up by 4.7% to \$50.3 billion. Here's where those tax dollars go under Gov. Wilson's spending plan: **41.6%** to K-12 education; **29%** to health & welfare; **13%** to higher education; **9%** to the State's penal system; **1%** to resources; and **7%** for other purposes. As always, there will be lots of give & take

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during the prolonged budget process, but as Senate PPT Bill Lockyer said in an interview with the L.A. Times, the governor wins 90% of the (budget) fights...

...In terms of the governor's budget priorities, welfare reform is clearly #1. Gov. Wilson's plan is very tough and it will save \$550 million over two years. That's money which can be pumped into education, job training, etc. GOP lawmakers like Wilson's plan because it is so tough, while Demo lawmakers have some serious concerns, especially when it comes to kids. Remember: of the 2.4 million people in Calif. getting welfare benefits, 70% are children. Although Wilson and his legislative allies may be on the right side in terms of public opinion, they have to be very careful not to appear to be *waging war on kids*. (FYI: Wilson has already taken a hit over his *forced adoption proposal* - refuse a job, lose your kids). Likewise, the Demos have to be careful too, because 73% of the public either strongly or somewhat favored "ending welfare as we know it." In other words, there are political risks for both sides in this upcoming debate...

...So why was Wilson so tough in his initial welfare proposal? 1) he wants to beef up his shaky conservative GOP base of support; and 2) he starts out tough knowing that a compromise plan will undoubtedly emerge which can win a 2/3rds vote in both Houses. Remember, budgets need a 2/3rds vote. If there's gridlock, the State could lose millions of dollars in federal funding -- so there's tons of pressure on both sides to reach agreement. Stay tuned...

#### **SPRING '97 ELECTIONS: CITY & COUNTY CONTESTS.**

Editor's note: It's not just the City of L.A. that has a spring election. There are numerous other cities in Southern Calif. (and a few in Northern Calif.) who have scheduled elections at this time. And all these cities and counties will be operating under Calif.'s new campaign reform law, Prop. 208. Here is ***Part I*** of a continuing series of brief updates on local races...

...Two neighboring counties in the Bay Area will hold special elections to replace two County Supes...

☒ ***Santa Clara Co. Bd. of Supes*** - The battle is on to replace Mike Honda, now in the State Assembly. 7 candidates have filed for this **Feb. 4th** special. **Cal-peek** sources have IDed 4-top tier contenders: Keith

Honda, Mike's chief-of-staff and his cousin from San Jose; community leader John Redding of San Jose, who is backed by former SJ Mayor Tom McEnery and by SJ Councilmembers Pat Dando and Frank Fiscallini; Los Gatos Councilman Steven Blanton, who is backed by U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell and Assemblyman Jim Cunneen; and Santa Clara Water Bd. member Rosemary Kamei of Morgan Hill, who is backed by U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren(D-San Jose). Gilroy Mayor Donald Gage is in the 2nd tier. Other candidates include Tom Kruse of Gilroy & Linh Dao of San Jose. Campaign mgt notes: Ron Smith is doing Redding's campaign; Richie Ross is doing Honda; and Roger Lee & Greg Sellers are doing Kamei...

☒ ***San Mateo Co. Bd. of Supes*** - In this field of 7 candidates to replace Ted Lempert, now in the Assembly, there are 2 top tier contender: San Mateo Co. Economic Development Corp.'s Denise DeVille and county school board member Rich Gordon. Although this **April 8th** special is non-partisan, DeVille is a moderate GOp, while Gordon is a Demo. Since the board is now split 2-2, the winner will tip the board to either the GOP or Demos. Gordon is backed by U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, Lempert, Sen. Byron Sher and Assemblyman Lou Papan. DeVille is backed by Sen. Quentin Kopp, Co. Sheriff Don Horsley and U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell. Campaign mgt. notes: Brian Godbe is doing DeVille and Staton Hughes & Shafer are doing Gordon. The area leans Demos, but in a low turnout special, this race could go either way. Stay tuned...

#### **L.A. CITY ELECTION: HOLDEN PULLS THE PLUG.**

Editor's note: *Declarations of Intent* were filed Jan. 13 and there were some surprises --- the biggest being that L.A. Councilman Nate Holden decided ***not*** to run for mayor against incumbent Richard Riordan or Sen. Tom Hayden in the April 8th election. Here's our analysis...

...There are 19 individuals who filed declarations to run for ***mayor*** of the nation's second largest city, but the only two who count are Riordan and Hayden. What impact will Holden's decision have on the race? Some think it helps Hayden because it consolidates the anti-Riordan vote, but others think it's too early to draw any conclusions...

...The race for ***city attorney*** will be a two-person affair: incumbent Jim Hahn vs. attorney/developer Ted Stein,

a close Riordan ally. Although it's early and voters aren't focused just yet, two L.A. Times stories about Stein are considered *negatives* by insiders. The first story noted that a real estate partnership Stein manages owes \$100,000 in unpaid property taxes. There is nothing illegal about postponing payment of property taxes (developers do it all the time), but it probably *doesn't play well* with most voters who pay their taxes on time. The second story notes that Stein will travel to Little Rock and testify Feb. 6th before the Federal Grand Jury probing Whitewater. When Stein was head of the L.A. City Airport Commission, the city hired former U.S. Associate AG Webster Hubbell as a consultant to deal with airport issues. No need to rehash Hubbell's legal problems. Stein isn't the subject of the current probe, but Hahn's campaign will make Hubbell an issue in the weeks ahead. Again, there's nothing illegal, but in politics, *it's perception that counts*. FYI: the 1st Hahn/Stein debate is set for Jan. 23rd, hosted by the Central City Assn....

...In terms of the *city council* races, most **Calpeek** sources agree that Councilmembers Laura Chick(3rd CD), Richard Alarcon(7th CD), Rita Walters(9th CD), Jackie Goldberg(13th CD) and Rudy Svorinich Jr.(15th CD) are *very safe*. So is Mike Feuer(5th CD) -- now that Jeff Brain isn't running. In the 1st CD, incumbent Mike Hernandez has 3 challengers and our sources keep hearing rumors that L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina may endorse one of the challengers. Of the 3 challengers, Rose Marie Lopez probably presents the greatest threat. She used to work for former councilman Art Snyder and has some name ID in the district...

...As for the OPEN 11th CD, there are 9 candidates, but **Calpeek** sources believe there are only two in the top tier: community planning advocate Cindy Misciowski (who was just endorsed by retiring 11th CD Councilman Marvin Braude); and Georgia Mercer, businesswoman and former Riordan staffer. Misciowski is using consultant Rick Taylor, while Mercer has hired consultant Larry Levine. Stay tuned...

**LAMAR ALEXANDER AT COMMONWEALTH CLUB.** Former TN Gov. Lamar Alexander (and ex-GOP presidential contender) will speak to the Commonwealth Club of CA, 11:45 a.m., Jan. 30, Sheraton Palace Hotel, S.F. For info ☎(415)597-6705...

**AFL-CIO's SWEENEY AT COMMONWEALTH CLUB.** AFL-CIO Pres. John Sweeney will address members of the Commonwealth Club of CA, 11:45 a.m., Feb. 7, St. Francis Hotel, S.F. Sweeney's speech: *America Needs a Raise*. For info & RSVPs ☎(415)597-6705...

**CAMPAIGN '98: CHECCHI MOVES FORWARD WITH PLANS; STILL NO GOP OPPOSITION FOR LUNGREN.** Editor's note: Just a brief update on some recent campaign developments for the *1998 governor's race*...

☑ Northwest Airlines co-chair Alfred Checchi(D) has added other high-level campaign advisors to his small but growing team of consultants. As reported by **Calpeek** Jan. 6th, Checchi has been working with DC-based media pro Bob Shrum. Now add consultant Darry Sragow and communications/spin maven Julie Buckner to the team, along with DC-based pollster Mark Penn (Penn & Schoen Assoc.). Checchi political advisor Bob Burkett is also part of the team. Sragow and Shrum teamed up in 1986 for Sen. Alan Cranston and again in 1988 for Leo McCarthy vs. Wilson. Most recently Sragow coordinated the successful Assembly Demo '96 campaign, while Buckner was the chief spinner for the '96 Demo Coordinated Campaign in Calif. Penn & Schoen did polling for Clinton/Gore '96. It's an impressive team...

☑ AG Dan Lungren's '98 campaign for governor continues to roll along without any GOP primary opposition. The Lungren for Governor Cmt. reports raising \$5.2 million between 1/95 and 12/96, with \$2.6 million cash on hand. The committee also is producing a quarterly newsletter. Lungren's toll-free HQ ☎(888) GO-DAN-GO (463-2646)...

☑ Around New Years, CA Controller Kathleen Connell(D) issued a statement saying that she and her husband, Robert Levenstein, had separated. Given that kind of disruption in her personal life, some insiders are now speculating whether she'll run for governor...

☑ Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) has announced that he'll be the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the tobacco industry. The lawsuit seeks money to fund non-smoking programs. Why is Davis jumping into these legal waters? CA AG Dan Lungren has declined to sue on behalf of Calif. Stay tuned...



**FULL METAL JACKET: STATUS REPORT ON THE BATTLE OVER SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL GUNS.**

Editor's note: Even though the upscale city of West Hollywood in L.A. County won *Round I* in its battle to defend its new law banning the sale of so-called *Saturday Night Specials* (cheap handguns), this legal tug-of-war with the gun lobby is far from over. Here's an update & analysis...

...West Hollywood was the first city to pass a law banning the sale of SNSs. Some 30 other cities have now copied the West Hollywood law. Newest cities on the list include Piedmont, San Mateo and Freemont --- all in the Bay Area. Some of the bigger jurisdictions which have passed such laws include: L.A. City, San Jose, S.F., Oakland, Santa Monica, Compton, Inglewood - and Santa Cruz, San Mateo and Contra Costa counties. The next big push for handgun legislation will be in L.A. Co., Long Beach, San Diego and Pomona. Sources expect a vote in Long Beach fairly soon...

...The only city facing legal action, however, is West Hollywood --- and they won in superior court, but now the Calif. Rifle & Pistol Assn. has filed the necessary paperwork for an expedited appeal (perhaps by March or April). The legal battle has cost WH about \$86,000 so far, but this could soar to \$350,000 or more. And if the gun lobby wins, WH could really be left holding the bag. WH Mayor Paul Koretz is hoping for some financial help from businessmen and local lawyers, but so far --- zip, nada, zero. The threat of legal action by the gun lobby was enough to cause both Pasadena and Sierra Madre to pull the plug on their SNS bans...

**CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ **Chutzpah Award** - To Orange County-based *Hermanidad Mexicana Nacional*, a Latino rights group, for picketing the L.A. Times Jan. 11th with 300 demonstrators. Why? It was the L.A. Times which recently disclosed that there were at least 19 noncitizens who voted in the Nov. 5th election in Orange Co., and all but one of the 19 were linked to HMN. The group's spokesperson says they've done nothing wrong, but why blame the messenger??? It was a solid piece of investigative journalism...

■ **New DNC Chair** - Popular Colorado Gov. Roy Romer(D) has been named by Pres. Bill Clinton to serve as the new general chair of the Democratic Nat'l Cmt., with MA businessman/Demo activist Steven Grossman as the new national chair, with responsibility for daily operations. The 431-member DNC meets Jan. 21st to approve the new Demo team. Next week: results of the RNC chairmanship election to replace Haley Barbour...

**NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.**

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Larry Margolis, 73, top aide to former Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh, died in Sacto on Jan. 7. According to the obit in the L.A. Times, Margolis was so powerful himself, he was referred to as the 81st member of the Assembly. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Katharine MacDonald, 47, died Jan. 12th in Sacto after a short battle with cancer. She was a VP with Hill & Knowlton, but was best known around L.A. City Hall as Zev Yaroslavsky's savvy and sassy press deputy. She also worked for the Washington Post and the S.F. Examiner. She's really going to be missed by her many friends. R.I.P...

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